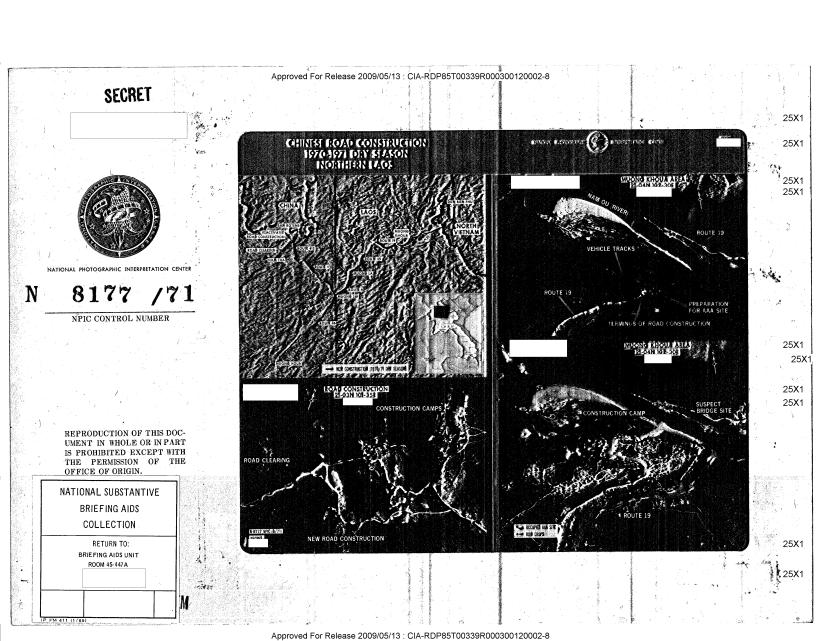


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CHINESE ROAD CONSTRUCTION 1970-1971 DRY SEASON

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. SIGNIFICANCE: CHINESE ROAD CONSTRUCTION HAS CONTINUED IN

NORTHERN LAOS DURING THE 1970-1971 DRY

NORTHERN LAOS

SEASON.

2. BACKGROUND:

THE CHINESE BEGAN BUILDING A ROAD NETWORK IN NORTHERN LAOS IN NOVEMBER 1968. THE ROAD SYSTEM INITIALLY EXTENDED FROM YUNNAN PROVINCE IN SOUTH CHINA ACROSS THE CHINA/LAOS BORDER NEAR THE LAOTIAN TOWN OF BAN BOTENE AND PROCEEDED SOUTHEAST TOWARD MUONG SAI. BY THE SPRING OF 1969 THIS ROAD HAD BEEN CONSTRUCTED TO MUONG SAI AND WAS THEN EXTENDED NORTHEAST TO MUONG LA. DURING THE DRY SEASON OF 1969-1970 THE CHINESE CONTINUED THE ROAD CONSTRUCTION SOUTHWEST FROM MUONG SAI DOWN THE PAK BENG VALLEY TO MUONG HOUN AND NORTHEAST BEYOND MUONG LA

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3. PAST COVERAGE:

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CHINESE ROAD CONSTRUCTION IN NORTHERN LAOS HAS BEEN COVERED ON NUMEROUS GIANT SCALE (GS), GIANT NAIL (GA), AND LOW-ALTITUDE (YE, YT) RECONNAISSANCE MISSIONS SINCE 1969.

THE CHINESE HAVE ADDED RELATIVELY FEW MILES TO THIS ROAD NETWORK DURING THE 1970-1971 DRY SEASON. THE MAJOR EFFORT DURING THIS SEASON HAS BEEN CONCENTRATED ON BUILDING NEW BRIDGES AND CULVERTS, RESURFACING MUCH OF THE EXISTING ROAD NETWORK, AND BUILDING NEW ANTIAIRCRAFT EMPLACEMENTS AND WORK CAMPS. ROW CROP-TYPE CULTIVATED AREAS WERE OBSERVED AT THE MORE PERMANENT WORK SITES.

NEW ROAD CONSTRUCTION HAS CONSISTED CHIEFLY OF EXTENDING ROUTE 19
NORTHEAST THROUGH MUONG KHOUA TO THE NAM OU (RIVER) AND REACTIVATING
CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW ROAD SOUTH OF BAN BOTENE. THIS NEW ROAD WILL
PROBABLY CONNECT ROUTE 412 WITH NAM THA (SEE INSET). CONSTRUCTION OF
CULVERTS AND BRIDGES, IN PARTICULAR TWO BRIDGES NEAR MUONG HOUN, AND
PREPARATION FOR THE RIVER CROSSING AT MUONG KHOUA (PRESUMABLY A BRIDGE)
HAS REQUIRED CONSIDERABLE CONSTRUCTION EFFORTS. PHOTOGRAPHY OF

SHOW BY COMPARISON THE EXTENT OF
ACTIVITY AT MUONG KHOUA DURING THIS TIME INTERVAL.

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PHOTO REFERENCE:	

ENLARGEMENTS: ONE 20X, TWO 15X

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